Opinion

Public meetings keep everyone informed

It was one year ago this month that the Carbondale Historical Society sponsored a public meeting. The topic was the pending move of the Carbondale Post Office and the future of the old post office building.

Subsequently, the Historical Society combined efforts with the Citizens for a Better Carbondale to sponsor a series of "meet the candidates" public meetings. All of the meetings were informative and, if nothing else, let the candidates for public office know that there are some people in Carbondale who care about the issues and the performance of our elected officials.

We would like to see more public meetings where the citizens meet face to face with selected officials and exchange ideas. We would like to see a public meeting with the entire Carbondale police department. The citizens should learn more about the local policemen's problems, and the police officers (not just the chief) should learn how most of the local citizens feel about law enforcement in their city.

We think there should be a meeting with the county commissioners. We know that the regularly scheduled commissioners' meetings are open to the public, but a public meeting in Carbondale would be better attended and it would be held in a less formal atmosphere. There would be a freer exchange of ideas.

State Representative Joe Wargo and State Senator Robert Mellow should be invited to separate meetings so the people of Carbondale can be advised of what they are doing in Harrisburg. There is no reason why we shouldn't also arrange meetings with Congressman Joseph McDade and Senators John Heinz and Arlen Specter.

Keeping ourselves informed about political issues and passing our opinions to our elected representatives is the only way we can attempt to make government work the way we want it. We hope we'll see some more public meetings in the near future.

Speak now or forever hold your peace

Carbondale City Councilman Abe Calzola recently requested public input on the question of whether or not the fine for parking violations should be raised from $1 to $3 or if the parking meters should be eliminated and free parking permitted for two hours. The fine for violating the two hour limit would be from $5 to $10.

We encourage our readers to tell Mr. Calzola and other members of council what they feel about this issue.

Our suggestion is: Raise the fine at metered spots to $2. Issue tickets and collect a $10 fine for parking in no parking zones. It's one thing to overpark in a legal parking spot; parking in fire lanes, and clearly marked "no parking" zones is inexcuseable.

Guest Editorial

By Dr. John R. Silber President, Boston University

In our growing national awareness that something is wrong with the way we recruit teachers for our schools, there have been few concrete suggestions to remedy the situation.

Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, has recently made a proposal that could go far to restore the quality of our teaching corps. Drawing on the example of ROTC, a program by which the government meets a recognized need for military officers by underwriting their education in civilian colleges and universities and then requiring their services from four to six years, Mr. Shanker proposes federal scholarships for highly qualified young people preparing themselves for teaching, and in partial repayment would require them to teach for five years after graduation.

A carefully targeted program of scholarships would encourage the supply of teachers where they are most needed. By setting very high standards for awards, such a program could reverse the trend in which our most able students shun the classroom.

Regarded as an investment and amortized over time, such a program would be remarkably cost-effective. If grants were provided for tuition and expenses for four years, and the average recipient taught for twenty years, well below the national average, the cost would be $1500 per year of service. Considered simply as a salary supplement, this means of attracting excellent teachers would be a bargain.

If we are to solve the crisis in the shcools, Albert Shanker's proposal deserves widespread public discussion and support.

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Do you remember when

15 YEARS AGO

James Burns, supervising principal of Fell Township Jr-Sr High School, presented certificates of educational development awarded to students in recognition of outstanding performance of 1968-69 National Development tests. The following students received awards: Susan Author, Jean Cleno, Daniel Harkenreader, Patrick Lisowski, Cynthia Moskosky, Patricia Rowland, Leo Skorupa, and Stanley Yavorosky.

The Carbondale Business and Professional Women's club held installation of the 1969 members. They were: Rosemary Mancuso, Rita Siriani, Peggy Naum, Martha Bates, Gertrude A. Krantz, Mary McGinley, Florence La Rosa, Anna Mae Bambera, Frances Zazzera, and Nan Clifford.

During the year 1968-69 – 490,163.67 tons of royalty coal was mined in the West Side mine fire project area and $107,996.89 paid into the coal royalty fund of the Redevelopment Authority of the city of Carbondale. Royalty payments on the basis of 72 cents per run of mine ton amounted to $716,226.

25 YEARS AGO

Otto Braendle, the Northeast Mountain hermit of Fell Township was burned in a fire that storms and was admitted into the General Hospital.

Naomi Mendelsohn of Carbondale, was a member of Ithaca College's largest Freshman class in its 72 year history.

Carolyn Warren Price, daughter-in-law of Daniel R. Price, Sr., of Salem Ave., is among 15 seniors at Florida Southern College who has been named to membership in American Colleges and Universities.

Four Benjamin Franklin High School students, Barbara Motsay, Tom Dombroski, Vaughn Marsden, and Dane Chubb, represented their school in the District Chorus.

Dewitt Romich, became a male nurse at Carbondale General Hospital. Mrs. Romich is a graduate of Benjamin Franklin High school and Post Graduate School in Chicago.

Miss Barbara Congon, a senior at Fell Township High School, was the winner in the Voice of Democracy Contest sponsored by the Veteran of Foreign Wars under the local sponsorship of the Walter Pacign Post.

Donald G. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rollis B. Jones of 164 Wyoming St., Paul J. Moran, son of Charles K. Moran, of 156 S. Main St., both of Carbondale and George J. Hobbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hobbs of 156 Spring St. Carbondale have completed basic training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

25 YEARS AGO

Frank Zazzera took office as president of the Carbondale Columbus Day Association and other officers were seated as follows: first vice president, Dennis Cerra; second vice president, Mrs. Marie T. Cerra; secretary, Mrs. Fhyl Renna; treasurer, Miss Frances Arabio, and publicity chairman, Mrs. Mary Goffredo?

Louis Bonacci was named as general chairman for the annual Benjamin Franklin High School Junior Prom, to be held April 24 at Eldyree Country Club, with Charles Graziano as co-chairman and Barbara Slone honorary chairman?

David L. Lawrence took office as governor of Pennsylvania January 20, pledging "a policy of action" to combat Pennsylvania's economic decline?

Promised Land Inn, located about 100 yards from Promised Land Volunteer Fire Headquarters, was destroyed by fire January 23, and the innkeeper, John Glazner, and his nine-year-old daughter and eight-year-old son were driven out in near-zero weather, narrowly escaping being trapped by the fire?

The NEWS published a photo showing a pickup truck dimly visible and another vehicle barely visible in fog at the N. Main-N. Church intersection and reported that a balmy 24-hour period had been accompanied by a drenching rain which washed away old snow and ice; the NEWS also reported that the weather forecast called for zero or near-zero weather by the following morning?

10 YEARS AGO

The Anthracite Health and Welfare Fund announced an immediate reduction in pension payments to retired mine workers from $100 to $50 a month?

Councilman Peter A. Gilette proposed that City Council consider letting collection of ashes and garbage out on private bid?

The Rev. Malcolm S. Sweet and family greeted hundred of friends and will wishers during a reception and program at Fellowship Hall preliminary to the departure of the Sweets for Juneau, Alaska, where the Rev. Sweet was to assume a new pastorate?

Employees of Hygrade-Atlas Co., Simpson, voted 19-16 to have the International Association of Machinists, AFL, represents them as collective bargaining agent?

J.P. Doodles

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Chief Symonies (1)

To the Editor:

This letter is in regards to the removal of John Symonies as Carbondale Township policeman. As a resident of Carbondale Twp. I am infuriated. It seems to me that the township was finally moving forward, now we just took four steps backward.

Mr. Symonies was the best thing to ever happen to our area. He singlehandedly raised over $9,200 in traffic fines! What other township cop can boast of that? I have been a resident here for 21 years and before Mr. Symonies, we never heard from or saw our law enforcement officials. Mr. Symonies spent hour after hour sitting in his car in the broiling hot sun catching speeders. If there was an emergency, he was there in five minutes flat, and not just 9to5.

He was out there early mornings to late evenings and weekends.

There have been numerous accidents on the road where I reside (Rt. 107) and a couple of fatalities. Can you imagine what it will be like now that Mr. Symonies is gone?

I was told the Carbondale Twp. will now have four new men to patrol. Well, when I inquired of the schooling of these new "officers," I was told that they were "going" to attend school. And just what do we do for a cop until then? I was told to call Paul Fife who has a full time job. Crime and emergencies don't just happen at night, they happen during the day, too. To Mr. Symonies, being a police officer was a full time profession. He was on call and could be reached 24 hours a day. Are these new greenhorns ready to commit themselves to that? Are they ready to give up their full time jobs and make being a Twp. cop their full time job? I sincerely doubt it.

Tell me, just what is the sense of removing an officer with training, a wonderful track record, experience, and such excellant devotion with four part timers who know absolutely nothing about law enforcement? (And could care less about it). All they care about is the extra hundred dollars a month. It's all quite obvious. Mr. Symonies didn't work just for the money. His measly salary already proved that.

It would be interesting if WNEP-TV taken notice and does some investigating like the excellent work they did in the Pittston vote fraud case. Because this area sure has some fishy political business going on.

I hope all the residents of Carbondale Twp. are as outraged as I am. Maybe with petitions and attending township meetings we can do something.

Then and only then will we feel safe driving on our township roads as well as feeling safe in our homes.

Angry resident

Keeping in touch

By James Laurie
6403 Darwin Road
Laurel, MD 20707

Harold and Lauretta Casagrande

Keeping in touch this week are **Harold and Lauretta Casagrande, 6604 Mt. Vista Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21207.** Harold is the son of William and Ermina Padelletti Casagrande of Powderly St. He married Lauretta Mugrage of Baltimore. The Casagrande's children are Paula, Marilyn, Kim and Bill. Their grandchildren are Jill and Dean. Harold's brother and sister are Josephine and Lee. The Casagrande's send a special hello to Lou and Enos Molinaro of Carbondale.

These students were among the members of Mr. Gilmartin's Physics Club in 1961 at Benjamin Franklin High School. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Bobby Brown, Grant Wadsworth, Jeannie Gilbool and Bill Geasey. Second row, Joe Neary, Jerry Mazzucca, Michele Mannion, Jack Timmons. Third row, Franklin Babcock, Bessie Wayman, Felicia Curcio and Diane Bruno. Fourth row, Mr. Gilmartin, David Kennedy, Jimmy Tomiano, Dottie Britton and John Kravits.

Letters to the editor

Icy streets

To the Editor:

I am a concerned citizen who lives, works, goes to church and shops in Carbondale. There isn't any other way I can get to any of these places other than drive. Isn't there anyone else in this town that is bothered by the same problem? I really thought the newspaper would be loaded with gripes but, I hear everyone's mouth going and complaining, but no one does anything about it. I haven't been anywhere else that this situation is the same.

Whose fault is it that our city is like a frozen ghost town and nothing is being done? What is being done, is one truck for a whole city's problems and we all know it's impossible to control our streets. When it is our trying to conquer all the streets, enough cinders aren't put to get up hills or you get a start and in the middle there aren't any cinders, you start sliding and pray to God "please let me hit something that won't damage my car," or "please don't let me hit anyone's house, or another car, most of all please, anyone walking, be out of my way because I don't want to hit you or kill you!"

Why are we in such a situation? Who is responsible for this? Who put us in the middle of this mess? Why are we financially broke? Why would anyone let a city that's supposed to be trying to better itself get so degraded?

Everyone is scared to death to go outside their doors, because they might not get back. You can't even walk because people aren't taking care of their own sidewalks.

Years ago when snow piled very, very deep, we didn't have this problem. Streets were cleared and cindered.

Look at our main street! It's a total mess. I'm even embarrassed to admit I'm from Carbondale. We're the talk of all the towns.

We should take some lessons from Honesdale, a small city but clean, neat and beautiful.

They care and show it. They have a system. Recently, I was a patient at St. Joseph's and a lot of us stood at the windows watching cars all over the road trying desperately to get home. Most of them in vain. Now, if they were going home and couldn't get there, then what happens to the patient in the ambulance who might need every minute they can get to get to the hospital, and, because of the roads, may not make it on time? Whose fault might that be? I pray to God I am not that person.

What can be done to have this deadly problem taken care of? Who can answer these questions with honest answers? Why can't there be a system set up for Main Street and all main roads in town and hospital streets to be cleared at hours when cars aren't using the space, or just set it up so they can be cleared right? I wish there were a way for this to get some action, but like everything else, you probably have to know someone. At least there is some good coming of this! The insurance people are just sitting back smiling because their business is booming, with all the accidents!

Thanks for listening!

Dorothy Castle

Chief Symonies (2)

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my extreme anger at the lack of action by the stupid, idiotic actions of the Carbondale Twp. Board of Supervisors. First, to fully comprehend the magnitude of their conduct, one must know how politically corrupt the majority of this township is. This is the way it always was and most people here just take it for granted that that is all we can possibly be handled. They know no other way! I personally know of politicians here who actually buy their votes.

Now, when John Symonies became our police officer a few years ago, I actually saw some law enforcement. This man did as fine a job as any officer could possibly do. If you needed him, he was always available. So after this man dedicated himself to the township so well, he was replaced by a few men with NO law enforcement qualifications or training. They are each required to only put in 20 hours per month. And one is a senior citizen tipping the scales at about 300 lbs! How would you like him to protect you? Everyone knows why these guys were hired and why Symonies is gone. Symonies wouldn't stoop so low as to play along with the games the officials around here deal in.

I think it's time someone opened this can of worms and let them out. It was opened last year when the supervisors were ordered by the court to make township records public and still defied. The only problem with that is that the can of worms mysteriously closed up and was forgotten about. Well it's time the honest people of this community (as few as there may be) got together and at least try to clean up and reform these low lifes. They could take a lesson from Scott Twp. with four full time and three part time qualified police officers and a community that can feel secure. I beg you township residents, don't ignore this situation.

Sincerely Concerned

Broken promises

To the Editor:

Thank you for publishing in the NEWS of December 21, 1983 "Broken promises", page 4), my letter of December 16, 1983, to the F.X. Biglin, Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, DC., regarding the Main Street substation of the United States Postal Service that was promised to the citizens of Carbondale by former postmaster Gerald P. Barrett at the Town Meeting held in that office in May 1982, in the Berean Baptist Church.

On December 30, 1983, I received a letter from Arthur Porwick, Regional Director, Customer Services Department, Eastern Regional Office, United States Postal Service, Philadelphia, PA. In that letter, Mr. Porwick states: "The decision on whether or not to establish an additional service facility is under the jurisdiction of the Sectional Center Manager at Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, who has the delegated responsibility for the operation of all post offices in your area. I have forwarded your request to the Sectional Center Manager for a thorough and careful review. You may be assured that it will be carefully evaluated and all relevant factors considered."

On January 6, 1984, John P. Turnbach, Sectional Center Manager, Lehigh Valley, wrote me a letter in which he states: "Permit me to first apologize for the irresponsible actions of the former Postmaster (Gerald P. Barrett) if he did promise the customers of Carbondale any type of postal facility on Main Street. As stated in previous correspondence to you, the Postmaster was not acting within the scope of his authority in this matter. Mr. Biglin specified in his letter dated December 22, 1982, the new facility will meet present and future postal needs of the city.

"At the present time the suggested location (the old post office) does not meet the criteria governing any type of contract unit, station, branch or finance station. The postal service appreciates your concern for the postal customers in the Carbondale area. The postal service strives to provide effective service, and customer feedback is very important to attain this goal. I regret under the circumstances that I cannot give you a more favorable reply. If ever I can be of assistance to you in any other matter relating to the postal service, please feel free to let me know."

Arthur Porwick and John P. Turnbach have both mis-read my letter of December 16, 1983, to F.X. Biglin. I did not ask that a substation be established in the old post office building, although such a building would be an ideal location for a substation of the United States Postal Service. I did ask that the United States Postal Service fulfill its promise to the citizens of Carbondale – a promise made by an official of the United States Postal Service, Gerald P. Barrett – that a substation of the Postal Service would be established somewhere on Carbondale's Main Street following the move of the Postal Service from the old building to the new facility. That is a promise that must be kept. The United States Postal Service has not yet fulfilled its promise to the citizens of Carbondale – makes me–and thousands of other residents of Carbondale–very angry.

As a matter of public record, I have sent copies of all correspondence between myself and the United States Postal Service, in the period November 30, 1983–January 6, 1984, to Congressman Joseph M. McDade (2370 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515) and to Senator Bob Mellow (540 Main Street, Peckville, PA 18452), and have asked them to help us, the citizens of Carbondale, in our quest for service from the United States Postal Service.

Sincerely yours,
S Robert Powell
President, Carbondale Historical Society

Tender loving care

To the Editor:

My name is Tippi, and I am now just past one year old. Last year my name was not anything. That's because no one cared what I was called. Or if I had anything to eat. Or that I might be cold. Or that I was dreadfully lonely in the big, confusing, scary world.

On a bitter cold night in January, during a blizzard, they cared about me so little that they put me into a cardboard box and then left the box (with me in it) in the parking lot of a bowling alley.

So there I was, a skinny little black puppy with no name and no home. I've never been able to figure out what it was I did to make them hate me enough to throw me out like that. And in the midst of a winter storm, no less.

When I made my way out of the box that night, they were gone, and I looked around me. My, but that parking lot was very big, very scary, very cold, and very, very lonely. I sniffed my way to the doors of the building. Many human feet passed by, but none of them payed me any attention. I kept thinking if only I had a name to be called by, maybe someone would call out to me.

I could go running to them and maybe they'd pick me up and warm me. But that didn't happen. Each time the doors of the bowling alley opened I tried to scoot in as fast as I could, hoping to get warm. Hoping for food, something to eat. Hoping for friendly human hands to hold me and pet me. Hoping.

The bowling alley was a frightful place for a little puppy like me. The noise was deafening to my delicate puppy ears. I guess it's just a human thing I didn't get run into by one of those big heavy black balls, anyway. I was quite frail at that time. I didn't like it in that place and no one liked having me in there, either. They kept chasing me back outside. I just couldn't decide which was worse: the deafening noise and confusion inside or the bitter cold and snow outside.

I was telling as downright miserable and unhappy as could be.

Then I decided to try something different. I followed a pair of human feet as they walked from the bowling alley into the nearby town. It was a very long way. I was starved and tired and weak, and so cold. But I tried and tried with all my might and managed to keep up. The feet walked fast. They belonged to a teen-age boy. At least they didn't chase me away. I followed all the way to the house where he lived. But his mother wouldn't let me stay there. So, he picked me up and took me back to the bowling alley parking lot. At least he carried me. I was glad of that. I was just too weak, tired and cold to walk any more that night.

After a while, some very nice girls who had made a fuss over me earlier discovered me again. They picked me up and warmed me against them. It was wonderful. They begged their mom when she came to pick them up. She didn't want to take me home. But she looked at me, and I guess I looked so pitiful that she agreed, but only for the night.

Tomorrow I'd have to go to the Humane Society, she said. I didn't know what that meant. But it had to be better than that awful cardboard box, that freezing parking lot, or that dreadful place inside. Maybe at the Humane Society I'd get a name to be called by, and someone to call me by it.

It was the next day that the miracle happened. I didn't go to the Humane Society after all. Instead I went to a home. A real home, with real people who wanted me. It was warm there, and the people held me and petted me.

They put me on the kitchen floor and put a bowl of milk and a bowl of food there for me. All for me. I looked up at them. I started falling over. Look, they said, she's so weak she can't stand up, poor thing. She keeps tipping over, they said. We'll call her Tippi, they said.

That's how I got my name and that's how I got my home. Now, when it's bitter cold and snowing, I look out at it through the window, and then I curl up in one of my favorite spots and take a nice nap. But I'm one of the lucky ones. I can't help worrying about those poor helpless puppies and kittens and things with no names that are being thrown out somewhere right this very minute, bewildered and confused, wondering what it was they did to make someone hate them so much.

Since I'm lucky enough to have one, you can use my name.

Sign me,
Tippi

More letters on page 7

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